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## Arizona State Senate

SENATE PRESIDENT 2012  
COMMITTEES:  
NATURAL RESOURCES & RURAL AFFAIRS  
CHAIRMAN  
JUDICIARY  
TRANSPORTATION

October 6, 2014

Ms. Marlene Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: Applications of AT&T Inc. and DIRECTV for Consent to Assign or Transfer Control of Licenses & Authorizations, MB Docket No. 14-90**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I'm pleased to support the merger of AT&T and DIRECTV, which will benefit Arizonans, especially those living in or near rural areas. I urge the FCC to approve it.

As a lifelong resident of this state, I know how much Arizona has to offer, including a strong economy, close communities, and some of the most beautiful sights in America. But in some areas in the state and in my district, we face real challenges, including securing access, let alone fast, reliable access, to high-speed Internet. People living in these areas often just learn to do without.

Rural Arizonans are resilient, but "doing without" isn't a viable long-term option when it comes to advanced connectivity and speeds. Those without access risk falling behind, and becoming unable to fairly compete in the digital age. Access to 21<sup>st</sup> century Internet services would bring new capabilities and opportunities directly to the households, small businesses, and ranches across Arizona. High-tech tools made possible by high-speed Internet access have the potential to transform lives, improve productivity, increase yields, and bring families closer together while also creating new economic development opportunities for these communities.

I see this proposed merger as a solution to a serious problem. Upon approval of this merger, AT&T has promised to expand access to 21<sup>st</sup> century connectivity to millions of rural and underserved locations throughout the U.S. For Arizona, these post-merger plans translate to thousands of additional customer locations. Communities would have unprecedented access to enhanced networks capable of delivering the speeds and bandwidth needed for today's applications.

This merger presents solutions to problems facing my communities in Arizona and many more across the country. We need those solutions to be implemented as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steve Pierce". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Steve Pierce  
Arizona State Senate, District 1